

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

14 FEBRUARY 1983

Arens Appointment, Sharon Resignation

Ambassador Moshe Arens has agreed to become defense minister and will return to Israel shortly to assume the post, IDF Radio reported on 14 February citing an announcement by Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office. Earlier, the Cabinet approved the transfer of the post of defense minister from Ari'el Sharon to Prime Minister Begin and considered that the Kahan inquiry commission's recommendation regarding Sharon has now been implemented, the cabinet secretary announced after the 13 February cabinet meeting in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. Before the Cabinet session, Sharon submitted a letter to Begin confirming his willingness to transfer the Defense Ministry to the prime minister but reaffirming that he had no intention of resigning from the Cabinet, the secretary noted. After a subsequent meeting with Begin, Sharon said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that he will remain a member of the Cabinet and will do "things that the prime minister will ask me to do." The opposition Labor Party meanwhile criticized Begin's decision to retain Sharon in the Cabinet and the Alignment decided to submit a no-confidence motion which will be discussed by the Knesset on 16 February, according to Jerusalem radio.

Arab Reaction to Sharon Resignation

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali expressed hope that Sharon's resignation will give impetus to the Middle East peace process, Cairo radio reported.

Riyadh radio asserted that Prime Minister Begin preferred "to sacrifice" Sharon rather than allow his Cabinet to fall, but that Sharon's resignation has not put an end to the political crisis in Israel.

Lebanon Talks

The results of the 14 February talks at Khaldah will depend on the outcome of U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib's talks with Lebanese and Israeli officials, the Lebanese Information Ministry announced in a dispatch from Khaldah broadcast by Beirut radio. After a brief plenary session, the subcommittees on withdrawals and security arrangements and on ending the state of war began detailed discussions of technical points, the dispatch noted. According to Jerusalem radio, the talks centered on formulating agreements on military issues.

PLO Affairs

PLO faction leaders concluded preparatory meetings in Algiers for the 14 February Palestine National Council (PNC) session, Rabat radio reported on 12 February. A Palestinian source said the PNC will approve contacts between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn on a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, endorse the Fes summit plan, and "not formally reject" U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative, the radio added. However, an earlier KUNA report quoting a PNC spokesman noted that the PLO leaders agreed on adherence to the Aden declaration which rejects the Reagan proposal and Damascus radio reported on 14 February that Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf declared the PLO's rejection of the plan.

In another development a Palestinian source reported that the USSR has asked Syria and Libya not to interfere in Palestinian affairs and to refrain from pressuring PLO leaders, according to the Amman paper SAWT ASH-SHA'B on 14 February.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi military spokesman claimed that 15,258 Iranians were killed during 6-10 February fighting in the Ash-Shib region, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported on 13 February. Earlier, the Iraqi Navy and Air Force carried out a successful attack against Iran's Khark Island, hitting the island's western terminal and a moored oil tanker, INA asserted citing an Iraqi military spokesman. Iranian media have not reported or denied the attack. Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Baghdad radio and INA on 11-13 February reported continuing combat missions by Iraqi aircraft but little ground fighting while Iranian communiques broadcast by Tehran radio 11-13 February noted sporadic fighting and exchanges of fire.

In another development Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said that deserters and those who have not yet enlisted in the military service or internal security forces must join their units or report to their recruitment centers during a 12 February - 1 March amnesty period, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported on 12 February citing an "open letter" from Husayn.

In a revolution anniversary speech on 11 February broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni urged the Iranian forces not to be overcome by pride as a result of their victories because this might lead to defeat. In another anniversary speech, President 'Ali Khamene'i declared that the forces in Iraq who are counting on Iran to deal the final blow to the Iraqi regime "will not have long to wait," according to Tehran radio.

Cheysson Tour

Jordan's King Husayn met with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson on 11 February and both sides reviewed Middle East developments, an Amman television report noted. According to an earlier television interview, Cheysson said France has a direct involvement in the region's events and declared that "we are trying to be as active as needed."

The French minister arrived in Iraq on 12 February and held talks with President Saddam Husayn on 13 February, INA reported. Cheysson conveyed a message from French President Francois Mitterrand emphasizing the strength of bilateral relations and President Husayn expressed deep appreciation for France's stand on the war with Iran, INA added. In comments to French correspondents on 12 February, Cheysson affirmed that French-Iraqi military contracts must be honored in full and that France must not appear to be changing its foreign policy in accordance with the latest developments in the Gulf war, Paris radio reported. The minister added that in the interest of peace it is necessary for Iraq to remain strong, the radio noted.

Egypt

Contacts With USSR -- "Secret" Egyptian-Soviet talks were recently held at the "highest level" to pave the way for the restoration of bilateral relations and the return of the Soviet ambassador to Cairo, the London magazine AL-MAJALLAH asserted.

Chali Tour -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Chali presented a detailed report to President Husni Mubarak on his recent visits to Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, MENA reported. Answering a question on whether this visit means that diplomatic relations will soon be restored, Chali declared that bilateral relations between Egypt and each of these states in various fields are "more important than other formalities," MENA added.

'Ismat as-Sadat Trial -- A court of ethics' verdict has imposed custodianship on all of the funds and properties of 'Ismat as-Sadat and his family, according to MENA. As-Sadat and his two sons received 1-year prison sentences because they are a menace to society, MENA noted.

Syria

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has made a "quick secret" visit to Moscow in the past few days, Beirut radio reported on 12 February citing Arab diplomatic sources. Earlier, in a predeparture statement, Deputy Head of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department Karen Brutents stressed the importance of bolstering "militant" bilateral relations, according to Damascus radio.

Moroccan-Algerian Relations

Moroccan-Algerian relations are expected to develop significantly over the next few days because Algeria passed on information to Morocco regarding a "U.S.-backed hostile internal movement," the London paper AL-HAWADITH disclosed on 11 February. The paper added that the information helped preempt the movement before it could materialize.

OPEC

Commenting on Saudi Petroleum Minister Yamani's recent statement indicating that an oil price reduction is inevitable, an official Saudi source stressed that nothing has been decided so far on reducing prices or increasing production, Riyadh radio reported on 12 February. Later, Iranian Petroleum Minister Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi called for an extraordinary session of OPEC oil ministers to reconfirm the \$34-per-barrel base price for crude oil, according to a 13 February Tehran radio report.

Iran

Iran and Mozambique issued a joint statement on 13 February calling for the establishment of diplomatic relations and an exchange of ambassadors as soon as possible in order to expand bilateral relations, IRNA reported.

Afghanistan

Afghan "mujahidin" damaged seven helicopters and killed many foreign soldiers during an attack on Jalalabad airport, Karachi radio reported on 14 February.

DAILY REPORT

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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

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GANDHI ADDRESSES PUBLIC MEETINGS IN ASSAM

BK101641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister had said that there is no question of imposing elections on the people of Assam. Addressing a public meeting at Dhurbi in Gwalpara district of Assam, Mr Gandhi pointed out that the election is being held to meet a constitutional necessity. She explained that government was thinking of amending the constitution to avoid a constitutional crisis and for this support of the opposition parties was also sought, but they did not respond positively and so the elections are being held.

Mrs. Gandhi said that Assam has faced many difficulties because of the foreign nationals issue and her government tried to find out an amicable solution through negotiations. But these could not succeed because of the indecisive attitude of the agitation leaders. Condemning the activities of a section of the people in the state, Mrs Gandhi said these activities are destroying peace and amity among different communities.

Mrs. Gandhi also addressed public meetings at Kokrajhar in Goalpara district, (Morabari) in Nowgong District and (Uttar Barber) in Karbi Anglong district. On the first leg of her 3-day tour of Assam and Meghalaya, she also addressed a public meeting at Silchar. The union minister of state for home affairs, N.R. Laskar, accompanied the prime minister.

Further Report

BK101638 Hong Kong AFP in English 1628 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Feb, 10 (AFP) -- As Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi hit the election trail in the northeastern border state of Assam today, anti-poll violence continued there, claiming ten lives and taking the death toll in the present protests to at least 46.

Addressing a series of meetings, she condemned the violent protests but ruled out giving in to the protestors demands and postponing the polls, scheduled for later this month.

The PRESS TRUST of INDIA (PTI), quoting reports reaching the state capital Gauhati, said that nine of the 10 deaths today were in police firing.

The tenth was in Darrang idstrict, where a Communist Party of India (CPI) candidate's supporter was dragged out of his house and hacked to death by a militant anti-poll group who also set fire to the house.

He was the fifth campaign worker to be murdered since electioneering started over two weeks ago.

Mrs. Gandhi said that whatever the logic behind the agitators' demands, there was no justification for violence, arson and kidnapping and urged the people to vote without fear as the government had made all the necessary arrangements for their security.

The worse violence today was at Hawai Govindapur, in Kamrup district, where five people died in police firing but details were not immediately available, PTI said.

One person was killed at Nazira, in Sibsagar district, and another in Goreswap, where a mob tried to burn a bridge.

Two other deaths occurred late Wednesday in Kamrup district, when mobs attacked police in Balisatra and Kamarkuch, the reports said.

Mrs. Gandhi addressed five meetings in support of her Congress Party nominees for the elections for the 126-seat State Assembly and for 12 deputies to the Indian Lower House of Parliament.

Several opposition parties, including two communist parties and four left-wing groups, are boycotting the controversial elections.

The Assamese protestors are calling for the expulsion from the state of five million illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal and for the names of immigrants to be scored off the electoral list.

Mrs. Gandhi appealed to the student leaders, who are spearheading the anti-poll protest, saying agitation would lead them nowhere and that nobody could be thrown out of Assam by illegal means.

ASSAM POLICE OPEN FIRE ON CROWD, KILLING 7

BK111019 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] New Delhi, Feb, 11 (AFP) -- Police opened fire on violent demonstrators at three places of the troubled northeastern state of Assam, killing at least seven people and bringing to 58 the death toll in the continuing violence over upcoming elections, Indian news agencies reported.

The PRESS TRUST of INDIA (PTI) New Agency, reporting from the state capital, Gauhati, said four persons were killed by police bullets in Lakhimpur town, north of the capital. A violent crowd of several thousand people had attacked a police station, PTI added.

Two other persons were killed in Kamrup district where police opened fire in two different areas to disperse violent crowds. Over 50 people were reportedly injured in the firing and stampede that followed.

Meanwhile, in Gauhati, about 200 officers of the state-owned Oil India Limited submitted their resignation in the face of threatened disciplinary action for not attending electoral duties, PTI indicated.

They said they had kept away from work under pressure from the ethnic Assamese opposing the state elections scheduled for February 14, 17, and 21.

The officers added that if their absence was constructed as indiscipline, they would prefer to resign.

The company which mans oil installations in the state has about 600 officers.

The state-owned All India Radio reported attempts by militants to derail trains passing through the state. The radio monitored here said that in one such attempt, the engine of a goods train was damaged today.

One journalist described Gauhati as "a ghost city".

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi conducted a lightning election tour of the state in a helicopter yesterday but it did not stop the violence.

A communist supporter, D. Barauh, was dragged from his house and hacked to death late yesterday. He was the fifth political worker to be killed since the current wave of violence struck the state on February 2.

Mrs. Gandhi's own rallies however, passed off peacefully amid a heavy security clampdown by para-military troops and under the watchful eyes of Sten gun-carrying security men.

Assam goes to the polls on February 14, 17 and 21 to elect a 126-member state assembly and 12 deputies to the Indian Parliament.

Further Report

BK101603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] In Assam, police today opened fire at three places to disperse violent crowds, which indulged in arson and attacked some police parties. According to official reports in Gauhati, seven persons were killed in the firing. Official reports say that a supporter of an election candidate, who was kidnapped earlier, was found dead in (Gopur) in Darrang district.

The state chief secretary, Mr Ramesh Chandra, said that the essential services in the state continued to function despite the call to the employees for noncooperation by the agitation leaders. He said that refineries at (Bongai Gaon) and Gauhati maintained their operations and pumping of crude continued unhampered. He said attendance of employees in the state secretariat in Dispur and the northeast frontier headquarters at (Manikgaon) was good.

PTI CITED ON BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN ASSAM TOWN

BK110014 Hong Kong AFP in English 0004 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] New Delhi, Feb, 10 (AFP) -- The town of Jorhat in Upper Assam was rocked today by three bomb explosions, apparently by anti-election movement extremists in the state.

The PRESS TRUST of INDIA News Agency quoted official reports from Gauhati, capital of the troubled northeastern state, as saying that the explosions forced many people of the town to come out of their houses in panic.

SUPREME COURT STAYS ASSAM ORDER ON NEWS BAN

BK101623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] The Supreme Court today stayed the operation of Assam government's order prohibiting two Jorhat-based papers from publishing reports about the agitation on the foreigners issue. A division bench issued a ruling on a petition by the two papers. The two papers have been directed to give an undertaking that they shall not publish any matter calculated to incite communal passion.

DERAILMENT AFFECTS TRAIN SERVICES IN ASSAM AREA

BK110858 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] The engine and two coaches of the 11 Up Barak Valley Express derailed around midnight last night between (Laupani) and Kampur on the Gauhati-Lumding metre gauge section of the northeastern frontier railway. The driver sustained minor injury. A relief train from Lumding was rushed to the site. Though running of trains is expected to be restored by this afternoon. It was officially stated that the accident took place due to the removal of fishplates.

KHOMEYNI ANNIVERSARY SPEECH TO FOREIGN GUESTS

LD101903 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini given on 10 February at Jamaran Hoseyniyyeh Mosque in Tehran to foreign guests attending celebrations marking the Islamic Revolution anniversary and to participants in the Fourth Conference of Arab poets -- recorded; duration 35 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful. You are welcome to a country which, because it is against the superpowers and their influence and has announced its opposition to them, has been subjected to the aggression of the enemies of Islam -- Iraq, that is the Ba'thist Party in Iraq, started this aggression with the assistance of America and nearly all other countries of the world -- has been subjected to the aggression of all those countries. You are welcome to a country which wishes to establish divine justice in the world, first of all in Iran itself; wishes that an Islamic government existed everywhere; and wishes that the hands of the big powers were cut off from Islamic countries.

As you know, since the beginning of the Islamic movement in Iran, especially since the great Iranian revolution, all of the great powers have opposed the revolution with all their might. They have created impediments, launched military attacks and incited the enemies of Islam to launch military attacks against some regions of the beloved Islamic country, only because of the offense of being Islamic. You know that at the moment, when the committed Islamic youth are waging a war against the 'Aflaqite Ba'thist Saddamists who have turned their backs on Islam and against the big powers who see their interests endangered in this country, in other Islamic countries and in all of the oppressed countries throughout the world, everyone else is assisting that communistic 'Aflaqite party in Iraq. They are rendering military, financial, and propaganda assistance to it on a large scale.

You have come to a country which has no other source of refuge except God Almighty. Our friends -- the nations and the oppressed classes of the world who are familiar with Islam and who are in favor of justice and human dignity -- are being pressured by governments which, for the sake of a few days of satanic (?rule), reject Islam, rise against Islam and put pressure on their nations lest they ask for justice and for patriotism.

Today the duty of all you gentlemen who have come from abroad -- some of you are poets, writers, and orators -- is to reflect the merits of this revolution. If you can, you should do so in public gatherings; and if you can't, you should do so in private gatherings. You should inform the oppressed people of the calamities which have been inflicted upon them, of the conditions under which they live, of the conditions of those who rule over them, and of the situation in the Islamic Republic. For the governments which are Islamic: where do they spend all of their resources and in whose pockets do they pour them, even though their nations are hungry, their nations are poor, and many have died of hunger? Nevertheless, they use their resources, resources which belong to the nation and which have been usurped. Instead of spending the resources, or even spending a small fraction of those resources, for their nations, they put them at the disposal of those who are the enemies of Islam.

Now that you gentlemen are here in our country you can see that our government is carrying out its work most capably, is reactivating the factories, and is solving its problems and difficulties one after another. Now after 4 years, Iran has everything that an independent country should have, despite the fact that it has always been under pressure and has always been under economic and military blockade.

Do not despair of God. Regard God as present, and believe that his power is active everywhere and remind yourselves of the early days of Islam.

At the moment Saddam is boasting that in the recent battle they killed -- sometimes they say 7,000 and sometimes they say 15,000 -- Iranian forces, but we have not sent more than 4,000 forces to the fronts. [laughter] The rest of the forces are not currently involved. The governments which are supporting that criminal of history -- from the beginning, when the Ba'thist party came into being, it was born with crime and with the theses that Islam should be destroyed -- how can we accept the claims of those countries which call themselves Islamic? How can the world accept their claim? They are Islamic in name, but in action they are suppressing Islam and supporting the enemies of Islam.

With open arms, you in the region are welcoming America, which is the enemy of all religions, including Christianity; America, which has no regards for any religions and is seeking nothing except her own interests. It does not even seek the interests of the Americans; it seeks the interests of the American Governments. America has set fire and is setting fire to the whole world. You allow her forces in Islamic regions in order to intimidate Lebanon, in order to intimidate Iran. What should the people who are afflicted with such governments do? What should the Muslims who are afflicted with such governments and such leaders do? Should they sit in their places and be mere spectators? If the Iranians had thought in the same way and had said that we are busy with our own affairs and will not interfere with issues, God knows what would have happened to Islam in this country if that regime had remained in power.

IRAQI: WITHDRAWAL NO LONGER 'MAJOR CONDITION'

LD111030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] A reception was given at the Foreign Ministry last night to mark the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. Among those present were Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president; Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs; some ministers and Islamic Consultative Assembly deputies; and some foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires in Iran. Mr Velayati made a speech welcoming the president and the guests. Then Mr Nicolae Stefan, the Romanian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran and doyen of the diplomatic corps, congratulated the president, the Iranian Government, and the Iranian nation on the fourth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The president then made a speech emphasizing that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not want hostilities with any country except those fighting against her. He said: We believe in peace, security, and order; we believe that the great human family will be able to have a proper life only through real peace. Referring to the fact that at the beginning of the war one of our three major conditions for an end to the conflict was the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from our territory, the president said: In view of the fact that we have been able to take back the major part of the occupied territories with our own strength and with the self-sacrifice of the fighters, and the fact that our forces will retake the rest of the land occupied by Iraq, the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the remaining part of our territory will no longer be regarded as a major condition for an end to war. There are, however, other major conditions. The most important one is that those responsible for so much destruction -- namely, the leaders of the Iraqi regime -- be punished. This would render the logic for force and bullying unsound.

In another part of this speech the president said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will confront all powers that wish to prove their legitimacy with force and aggression.

In particular, we have unfinished business with the regime occupying Jerusalem. We reject all solutions concerning the issue of Israel which would place the homes, towns, and country of a nation under the usurping occupation of another group of people who have gathered in that place from various parts of the world.

KHOMAYNI: GUARDS, ARMY MUST AVOID FACTIONALISM

LD131150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Mr Mohsen Rafiqdust, the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, together with the deputy minister and several officials of this ministry were received in audience this morning by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution. The minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps submitted a report to the imam on his ministry's activities. Imam Khomeyni then made a speech in which he graciously said: Since the corps is a newly-established institution and is in charge of preserving Islam and the revolution, it must be a model for morals and have proper and Islamic contact with people and other forces in society. Individuals who could generate tensions must not be admitted into the army or the corps. Right from the beginning of the revolution the deviationists said that the corps was of no use; on the other hand, others said that the army must not exist. Both groups wanted to strike at the army or the corps. Today the army and the corps are both functioning well in the service of Islam and the revolution. We want to reform the country fundamentally and to revive the forgotten Islamic issues. We must, therefore, understand that the army and the corps will be part of us until the end of time, and that if, heaven forbid, in 50 years a deviation appears, we shall be responsible for it. My emphatic recommendation is that in accordance with Shari'ah laws, duty, and society's interests, people in the corps and the army must pay attention to issues and strictly avoid factionalism and division.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI ON DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE WAR

LD131214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Excerpts] A number of literacy movement workers from Khomeyni Shahr and [word indistinct] of Esfahan, some self-sacrificing warriors of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and a number of Marivan's Muslim and Kurdish Peshmergas were received this morning by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis.

Addressing the audience, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We and you and our society and our leader have decided to pursue this war in the interest of the world's oppressed until victory. This is a decisive policy for which we have prepared all the essential means. We have assembled more armed forces at the war fronts than at any time in the past, and a wave of volunteers continues to pour to the fronts. Preparations continue for the implementation of the Wal Fajr offensive, which will not be stopped as long as the fate of the war is not sealed. The only thing that could restrain us is our desire to minimize bloodshed and destruction. The policy is however to continue the Wal Fajr operation. God willing, it will be our last operation before final victory. This is a fact that the enemy and its masters have realized. They know that we have made the final decision. That is why there was a move at the regional level as soon as the operation was launched. You can see that the comings and goings to and from Baghdad have increased and that the reactionaries and their agents are working hard.

The speaker of the Majlis added: Before the latest operation we spelled out our position and said we wanted peace. We are not warmongers, but we consider punishment of the oppressors and the aggressor to be essential. We will not stop unless we are assured that the rights of the Islamic Republic, these selfless people and the region's oppressed people will be honored.

We tell our combatants to remain determined, to continue their operations and not to think of returning from the fronts to their homes. We will thus be able to open up the road to Karbala and Jerusalem.

PRIME MINISTER ON ENDING WAR SUPPLY SHORTAGES

LD122116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] In view of the strict orders issued by the leader regarding the priority given to the issue of defense, Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i, the prime minister, issued a circular to all ministries, organizations, government offices, and Islamic Revolution foundations. The circular includes the following: In order to guard and protect the fruits of the Islamic Revolution -- one of its miraculous outcomes being the great victories achieved at the price of the blood of our esteemed martyrs and the resistance of the brave combatants of Islam and the generous aid of the hezbollahi [member of the party of God] nation -- against the flood of financial and military aid by the East and the West and their allies, which has been put at the disposal of the mercenary aggressors, it is necessary that all officials in charge take immediate steps to cover the shortages of equipment and supplies required on the frontlines. These efforts will be coordinated by the minister of state in charge of executive affairs.

JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON WAR

No 1,216

LD111829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Communique No 1216 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Our dear compatriots are hereby informed of the prevailing situation on the imposed war fronts.

Limited and sporadic fighting and exchanges of fire continued on the country's western fronts during the past 24 hours. The exchanges of fire between our forces and the Iraqi Zionist mercenaries were more intense on the Meymak front. While defending their positions in the protective zones on those fronts, our forces dispatched patrol groups and inflicted losses and casualties on enemy forces. In certain cases, while inflicting losses and casualties on enemy forces, the forces of Islam captured some spoils of war.

On the Marivan front, as a result of the army's artillery fire on enemy positions in the vicinity of Panjwin [in Iraq], some enemy positions and concentrations were set on fire.

Following the destruction of a number of Iraqi foxholes, a number of enemy vehicles were damaged, and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed or injured.

On the southern fronts, the combatants of Islam continued their operations to defend and protect their defensive positions. On the Wal Fajr operational front, too, the triumphant combatants of Islam are continuing their defense and their brave battle to protect their positions as well as destroying the aggressor Iraqi forces.

On the Abadan front, the combatants of Islam opened intense fire on enemy positions and fortifications across the Arvand Rud, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Iraqi mercenaries. As a result of the destruction of a number of Iraqi light and heavy weapons emplacements more than 60 soldiers of the Saddamist infidel forces were either killed or wounded.

Yesterday the city of Abadan came under the Iraqi criminal and mercenaries' heavy artillery fire, as a result of which several civilian houses were destroyed, some city installations were damaged, one of our compatriots was martyred and four were injured.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

No 1,217

LD121726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,217 issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The fighting forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue their efforts to crush the infidel enemy with resistance and steadfastness in order to establish the rule of God, relying on God Almighty and the prayers of the imam of the nation, enjoying the generosity and unity of the Muslim and struggling nation of Iran. They hope their efforts will please God.

At 1421 today, the fire of the anti-aircraft defense units and fast-flying aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran hit and downed an enemy plane in the Wal Fajr operational region. A missile launched by the plane was also hit and destroyed. The number of enemy aircraft downed in the preliminary phase of the Wal Fajr operations now totals seven. During the past 24 hours in the Wal Fajr operational region and southern fronts of the country, the heavy fire of our artillery units foiled all enemy activity and the forces of Islam, having superior battle strength and better morale, defended the areas under their protection while continuing to carry out their missions. In the operational regions of Abadan and Khorramshahr, our combative forces opened fire on enemy positions on the far side of the Arvand Rud, as a result of which two observation posts and a mortar belonging to the Iraqi military personnel were destroyed. Yesterday, residential districts of Abadan were hit by long-range heavy weapons of Saddam's army; two houses were destroyed and three of our compatriots were wounded.

On the western fronts of the country our forces carried out surveillance, combat, and infiltration missions, keeping a check on enemy activities. In Marivan region, as a result of the fire of Islamic combatants on enemy positions near Khormal, a number of their entrenchments were destroyed and enemy fire was silenced. A group of our combatants infiltrated into [name indistinct] base in the region adjacent to Marivan and killed the base commander while inflicting other casualties. They succeeded in taking some enemy equipment as booty.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

No 1,218

LD131750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,218 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The victorious and powerful combatants of Islam, with the power of faith in and with reliance on the Almighty, in their righteous trenches are bravely defending our Islamic homeland, Iran, and the honor and credit of our religion, beloved Islam, and by inflicting repeated blows on the falling bodies of the blasphemous Saddamist mercenaries are bringing closer the death and destruction of the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thists. The result of their efforts and self-sacrifice on the fronts of the battle between truth and falsehood yesterday is brought to the attention of the beloved compatriots.

In the past 24 hours, exchanges of fire and sporadic engagements between the combatants of Islam and the aggressive Ba'thist mercenaries have been continuing throughout the western fronts of the country. The first of our combatants destroyed several trenches and foxholes and one ammunition dump of the Iraqi forces and on one of the fronts the self-sacrificing personnel of the engineering units of the ground forces discovered over 700 antitank and antipersonnel mines, and mopped up the region.

On the Dehloran front, the heroes of the gendarmerie returned the fire of the Saddamist mercenaries and by opening fire on the enemy positions and units, destroyed one troop truck and four trenches killing a number of Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

On the Marivan front, the strong combatants of Islam, pounded the positions of the Iraqi forces in Gavgan and Rawshan inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries and stopping every movement or activity by the enemy.

Yesterday, exchanges of fire were continuing on southern fronts, mostly in the Wal Fajr operations zone; they were more intense in the Safireh and (Rushaydah) areas.

The victorious combatants of Islam consolidated and stabilized their defense positions as much as possible and continued their heavy fire, inflicting losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, exchanges of sporadic fire continued. As a result of the fire of the gendarmerie units on the enemy positions on the other bank of the Arvand Rud, 6 heavy and light weapons positions, 3 observation posts, and 1 ammunition dump of the Iraqi forces were set on fire and destroyed and about 30 Saddamist mercenaries were killed or wounded.

Yesterday, the criminal Saddamist mercenaries continued to bring the city of Abadan under their artillery and long-range-weapons fire. As a result, five houses and shops were destroyed.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI HELICOPTER DOWNED 11 FEBRUARY

GF121136 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] The fire of the Islamic forces downed yesterday a helicopter belonging to the aggressive Iraqi regime in the By the Dawn Operations region. This is one of the helicopters which this regime received recently. It is noteworthy that our brave forces have already downed -- since the beginning of the By the Dawn Operations -- six Iraqi fighter planes in addition to the helicopter.